

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A method of applying an image to a substrate, the method comprising:
providing a first heat transfer material that contains a first base layer and a transfer film on which the image is formed;
providing a second heat transfer material that contains a second base layer and an overlay transfer film; and
transferring the imaged transfer film and the overlay transfer film to the substrate so that the imaged transfer film is positioned between the substrate and the overlay transfer film, wherein the overlay transfer film is fused to the imaged transfer film.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the first base layer, the second base layer, or both contain a cellulosic web.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the cellulosic web is latex-impregnated.

38.. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the first heat transfer material comprises a release layer positioned between the first base layer and the imaged transfer film, the release layer comprising a polymer having essentially no tack at a transfer temperature of about 177°C.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the polymer of the release layer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic polymers and poly(vinyl acetate).

40. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the second heat transfer material comprises a release layer positioned between the second base layer and the overlay transfer film, the release layer comprising a polymer having essentially no tack at a transfer temperature of about 177°C.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the polymer of the release layer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic polymers and poly(vinyl acetate).

42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the second heat transfer material further comprises a conformable layer overlaying the second base layer and underlying the release layer.

43. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein transfer of the imaged transfer film and the overlay transfer film is performed by applying heat and pressure.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein heat and pressure are applied by hand ironing.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein heat and pressure are applied using a heat press.

46. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the overlay transfer film is formed from a different material than the imaged transfer film.

47. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the overlay transfer film comprises a polymer that melts in a range of from about 65°C to about 180°C.

48. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the overlay transfer film comprises a film-forming binder.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the overlay transfer film further comprises a powdered thermoplastic polymer.

50. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising positioning the first heat transfer material adjacent to the second heat transfer material to form a laminate in which the imaged transfer film is located adjacent to the overlay transfer film.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising separating the first base layer from the first heat transfer material and thereafter positioning the laminate adjacent to the substrate.

52. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising separating the first base layer from the first heat transfer material, positioning the imaged transfer film adjacent to the substrate, and thereafter positioning the second heat transfer material so that the overlay transfer film is located adjacent to the imaged transfer film.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising separating the second base layer from the second heat transfer material.

54. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the imaged transfer film comprises an ink-compatible layer, the ink-compatible layer comprising a film-forming binder and a powdered thermoplastic polymer, wherein each of the film-forming binder and the powdered thermoplastic polymer melts in a range of from about 65°C to about 180°C.

55. (New) A method of applying an image to a substrate, the method comprising:
providing a first heat transfer material that contains a first base layer and a transfer film on which the image is formed;

providing a second heat transfer material, the second heat transfer material comprising a second base layer and an overlay transfer film;

positioning the first heat transfer material adjacent to the second heat transfer material to form a laminate;

separating the first base layer from the first heat transfer material and thereafter positioning the laminate adjacent to the substrate; and

transferring the imaged transfer film and the overlay transfer film to the substrate so that the imaged transfer film is positioned between the substrate and the overlay transfer film, wherein the overlay transfer film is fused to the imaged transfer film.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein transfer of the imaged transfer film and the overlay transfer film is performed by applying heat and pressure.

57. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the overlay transfer film is formed from a different material than the imaged transfer film.

58. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the overlay transfer film comprises a polymer that melts in a range of from about 65°C to about 180°C.

59. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein the imaged transfer film comprises an ink-compatible layer, the ink-compatible layer comprising a film-forming binder and a powdered thermoplastic polymer, wherein each of the film-forming binder and the powdered thermoplastic polymer melts in a range of from about 65°C to about 180°C.

60. (New) A method of applying an image to a substrate, the method comprising:
providing a first heat transfer material that contains a first base layer and a transfer film on which the image is formed;

providing a second heat transfer material, the second heat transfer material comprising a second base layer and an overlay transfer film;

separating the first base layer from the first heat transfer material and thereafter positioning the imaged transfer film adjacent to the substrate;

positioning the second heat transfer material adjacent to the imaged transfer film;

separating the second base layer from the second heat transfer material; and

transferring the imaged transfer film and the overlay transfer film to the substrate so that the imaged transfer film is positioned between the substrate and the overlay transfer film, wherein the overlay transfer film is fused to the imaged transfer film.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein transfer of the imaged transfer film and the overlay transfer film is performed by applying heat and pressure.

62. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the overlay transfer film is formed from a different material than the imaged transfer film.

63. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the overlay transfer film comprises a polymer that melts in a range of from about 65°C to about 180°C.

64. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein the imaged transfer film comprises an ink-compatible layer, the ink-compatible layer comprising a film-forming binder and a powdered thermoplastic polymer, wherein each of the film-forming binder and the powdered thermoplastic polymer melts in a range of from about 65°C to about 180°C.